

Subject: The issue of the day
From: Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>
Date: 04/01/2016 05:17 PM
To: lisa@mediadistrict.org

Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember, 13th District



Friend --

This week, the Los Angeles City Council voted 13-1 to approve an ordinance that amends Los Angeles Municipal Code 56.11 to limit storage on sidewalks, parkways, and alleys as well as the erection of tents during daylight hours.

The item has been the subject of great debate over the last several months as the City of Los Angeles works to maintain clean and safe neighborhoods, while addressing the needs of our homeless population. The revised ordinance will now provide the City the ability to ensure the public's right of way, while simultaneously offering supportive services needed to guide people toward housing.

My office works daily to end homelessness -- both with outreach and offering supportive services as well as maintaining the sidewalks for cleanliness to the best of our ability. The size of the City's homeless community makes this a monumental task, however my staff and I are committed to improving the quality of life for every resident in the 13th District.

As you might have heard, my office contracts with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to provide outreach and supportive services in areas of increased homeless populations such as East Hollywood, Historic Filipinotown, Rampart Village, Echo Park and Silver Lake. Here are some statistics from that partnership:

- PATH has reached out to 397 homeless individuals in the 13th District**
- PATH reports that 10 individuals accepted transitional housing**
- PATH reports that four individuals were moved to permanent supportive housing**

According to these numbers, **one percent of those PATH has met entered into permanent supportive housing**. This statistic underscores the large number of service resistant individuals living on the streets in the 13th District. In addition, we are faced with the following statistics provided by Commander Todd Chamberlain with the Los Angeles Police Department:

- In 2015 there were 2948 reported Part 1 crimes involving homeless individuals. Part 1 crimes include rape, assault, and homicide.**
- 1,237 of those crimes reported involved a victim that was homeless**
- 1,711 of those crimes reported involved a suspect that was homeless**

56.11 was crafted very carefully and with great scrutiny from our City Attorney's office. It will give the Police Department the authority it needs to address the Part 1 crimes that occurred, while also establishing a balance between neighborhood needs and those of our homeless community.

We, as leaders, have to make decisions that are sometimes unpopular. I understand the passions behind this as well, and none of us are immune to human feeling or understanding suffering. I visit the encampments in my district on a regular basis, and I have spoken with many of the homeless individuals living in the 13th District. I hear the suffering they are enduring on the streets. I am also hearing from residents and businesses and they want us to do something about the homeless crisis definitively, and this is a first step in that direction.

Homelessness is the issue of the day, and is one byproduct of our affordable housing crisis, compounded by a lack of social and mental health services. I will continue our efforts to get our homeless neighbors into permanent supportive housing, find a solution to the affordable housing crisis, while utilizing 56.11 to address public health and safety issues in our neighborhoods.

If you want more information on how the City addresses encampments and abandoned property on public rights of way, or contact numbers for those working to help the homeless, [please visit this page on my website for further details](#).

Mitch O'Farrell

COMING UP

TUES 4/5 [ECHO PARK REC CENTER BOOT CAMP CLASSES BEGIN](#)

THURS 4/7 [LOS ANGELES SEISMIC RETROFIT FAIR](#)

SUN 4/10 [CYCLE WITH THE LAPD](#)

HEADLINES

City takes step to make Hollywood more walkable [\[BEVERLY PRESS\]](#)

Silver Lake residents seek peace and quiet behind sound wall [\[EASTSIDER LA\]](#)

Councilman spotlights East Hollywood during monthly event [\[BEVERLY PRESS\]](#)

TEAM MITCH MAKING A DIFFERENCE



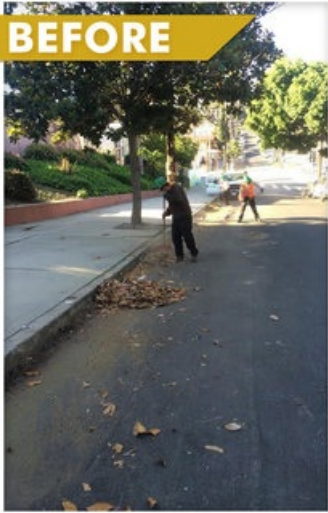
ECHO PARK - As we get ready for Dodgers Opening Day, Team Mitch took on the special project of trimming branches that blocked street signs on Academy Rd. in EchoPark.



MITCH O'FARRELL

COUNCILMEMBER, 13TH DISTRICT

BEFORE



AFTER



SILVER LAKE - The CD 13 Clean Team provided a great service in the Silver Lake community, sweeping litter and leaves on Maltman Ave, just outside St. Francis of Assisi Church. See an area in your neighborhood that needs attention? Contact Sylvan De La Cruz in the Echo Park District Office at 213-207-3015.

[SEE MORE BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK](#)

O'FARRELL, DCA KICK OFF THE BIG READ PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES



CITY HALL - Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and the City's Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) kicked off the Big Read Program, designed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to revitalize the role of reading in American culture.

DCA is one of 75 nonprofit organizations to receive a grant to host a Big Read project. This year marks DCA's eighth year of receiving an award grant from the NEA for programming The Big Read. The 2016 featured reading selection is Ray Bradbury's **Fahrenheit 451**, a novel about a dystopian future society where books are banned and burned. Councilmember O'Farrell is the chair of the City's *Arts, Parks, and LA River* Committee, which oversees policy related to DCA.

[FOLLOW THE COUNCILMEMBER ON TWITTER FOR DAILY UPDATES](#)

O'FARRELL SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS



VAN NUYS CITY HALL - The Los Angeles City Council Friday recognized the dedication, hard work, and generosity of more than 7000 volunteers who gave the library more than 17,000 hours of service in the past year. That equals \$4,597,545! Interested in volunteering? [Click on this link](#).

O'FARRELL ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR STREETLIGHT PROJECT



HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN - Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, along with the City's Board of Public Works, Bureau of Street Lighting, and the Department of Transportation recently announced a call for artists to create designs for a light installation project that will improve pedestrian safety along a commercial corridor in the 13th District.

[READ MORE](#)

AROUND THE DISTRICT

[LA CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM](#)

[O'FARRELL ENCOURAGES CONSTITUENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS](#)

[O'FARRELL DEDICATES NEW ECHO PARK SENIOR CENTER](#)

[CITY WORKS TO SECURE BARNSDALL PARK AFTER HOURS](#)

PHOTO OF THE DAY



CITY HALL - Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell welcomed Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis Rodriguez to the Council chamber this week for a special reading to kick off The Big Read.

[FOLLOW THE COUNCILMEMBER ON INSTAGRAM FOR DAILY UPDATES](#)

This email was sent to lisa@mediadistrict.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).